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HOUSE MEMORIAL 83

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE ALTERNATIVE FUNDING
MECHANISMS TO COMPLETE THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL AND RECOGNIZING
FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM PORTER.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande is a precious lifeline in New
Mexico that connects nature, history, culture and communities
across millennia; and

WHEREAS, the state parks division of the energy, minerals
and natural resources department has launched an ambitious
project to complete the Rio Grande trail, a multiuse trail
along as much of the river corridor in New Mexico as is
feasible and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the development of a Rio Grande trail would
create significant public benefits for New Mexico, connecting

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1 communities, promoting recreation and healthy lifestyles,
2 stimulating tourism and economic development and supporting
3 river and bosque education and protection; and

4 WHEREAS, the legislature of the state of New Mexico has
5 endorsed the completion of the Rio Grande trail through passage
6 of House Joint Memorial 49 and Senate Joint Memorial 44 in
7 2007; and

8 WHEREAS, the state parks division and the mid-region
9 council of governments are making strong progress on the Rio
10 Grande trail, having completed preliminary route analyses and
11 plans for segments between Bernalillo and Sunland Park and have
12 begun implementing these plans; and

13 WHEREAS the Rio Grande trail will require a sustained
14 commitment over the long term to construct, maintain and manage
15 the project, which should involve the state of New Mexico and
16 many other partners at the federal, state and local levels; and

17 WHEREAS, the honorable William Porter, a former New Mexico
18 state representative who served with distinction while
19 representing Dona Ana county, has been a visionary advocate for
20 the concept of the Rio Grande trail for many years; and

21 WHEREAS, former Representative Porter has developed
22 extensive research on the benefits, feasibility and necessary
23 planning needed for the development of the Rio Grande trail;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the proposed

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1 Rio Grande trail, a project of statewide and national
2 significance, be completed as soon as possible for the benefit
3 of present and future generations; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of
5 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be
6 requested to study long-term funding options for the
7 construction and management of the Rio Grande trail and to
8 present its findings to the legislature by December 1, 2009;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that William Porter be honored and
11 recognized for his outstanding contribution to the
12 conceptualization and realization of this visionary project;
13 and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division of
15 the energy, minerals and natural resources department and the
16 county of Dona Ana collaborate in order to honor Representative
17 Porter in an appropriate fashion at some point along the Rio
18 Grande trail within Dona Ana county; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
21 resources, to the chair of the Dona Ana county commission and
22 to former state Representative William Porter.